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REVIEW OF DEVELOPMENTS IN USSR LOCAL AND
 COOPERATIVE INDUSTRIES, FEBRUARY - APRIL 1953

This report presents information, from February - April 1953
 Soviet newspapers, on construction and production achievements and
 shortcomings in USSR local and cooperative industries.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.⁷

Karelo-Finnish SSR

The Petrozavodsk Metal Plant is one of the largest metalworking enterprises
 of the Ministry of Local Industry Karelo-Finnish SSR. It produces carts, beds,
 nails, and other consumers' goods. However, the plant did not fulfill the
 first-quarter 1953 plan and failed to produce 90,000 rubles worth of products.

In 1952, officials of the Petrozavodsk Metal Plant were aware of the fact
 that modern carts with curved rims were in great demand by the consumer, whereas
 carts with beveled rims were not. However, no effort was made during the year
 to master production of carts with curved rims. Consequently, carts produced
 by the plant were not sold. Since fall 1952, up to 500 carts which had accumu-
 lated in the plant courtyard during the year have been exposed to adverse weather
 conditions and have deteriorated greatly. Since each cart cost the plant 980
 rubles, it was not surprising that the plant found itself in serious financial
 condition by April, 1953.

By the end of 1953, the Petrozavodsk Metal Plant is to have increased
 production 30 percent, as compared with 1952, and is to have mastered produc-
 tion of automobile hoods and other products.(1)

Estonian SSR

As of 24 April 1953, there were 46 industrial combines subordinate to local
 soviets of the Estonian SSR. The Loksaski Rayon Industrial Combine fulfilled
 the 1952 gross production plan only 34.8 percent.(2)

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The Otepyaskiy Rayon Industrial Combine has been increasing the number of its component enterprises. In 1952, a new woodworking shop which produces furniture and wooden construction parts was constructed. By the end of spring 1953, construction of a personal services shop was to have been completed. As of 19 March 1953, construction had started on a flour mill which is to be in operation by the end of 1953. By the end of summer 1953, construction of a new brick plant is to have been started. This plant is to produce bricks for kol-khoz use, pipe for reclamation work, and products for domestic use.(3)

In 1952, the "Invalid" Industrial Artel in Tallin produced almost 15,000 toys of 50 different types. By the end of 1952, the artel had organized production of children's musical instruments (4)

Latvian SSR

Rayon industrial combines in Daugavpilseskaya Oblast sell carts, wheels, bricks, lime, lumber, and carpentry goods to kolkhoz representatives. As of 30 March 1953, local industry enterprises in the oblast were producing more than 20 types of products for kolkhoz consumption.

As of 30 March, the Mezekne Mechanized Brick Plant was being expanded to increase production of construction materials and a large mechanized brick plant was near completion at the Daugavpilseskiy Rayon Industrial Combine. By the end of 1953, construction is to have been started on a calcium plant in Vilyanskiy Rayon and a dolomite plant in Yekabpilskiy Rayon.

In 1953, local industry production of Daugavpilseskaya Oblast is to increase by more than 7 million rubles, as compared with 1952.(5)

Lithuanian SSR

Kolkhoz demands for construction materials and various products of industrial production have been increasing steadily as a result of extensive kolkhoz construction and expansion in Shyauliyayskiy Rayon. These demands could and should be satisfied by enterprises of local industry, particularly the Shyauliyayskiy Rayon Industrial Combine. The combine is composed of a foundry, brick plants, three sawmills, five large flour mills, a carpentry shop, and a gypsum shop.

However, as of 24 April 1953, the combine was not operating with kolkhoz needs in mind. Instead of producing as many construction materials, wagon goods, and agricultural implements as possible, the combine was producing goods which are easy to produce, but not in demand. Consequently, the 1952 plan for cart production was fulfilled only 37.2 percent and for brick production only 27.4 percent. Production of sledges was not organized in 1952. At the same time, the 1952 production plan for gypsum articles was fulfilled 250 percent and for stationary goods 666 percent. By 1 January 1953, the surplus of gypsum articles made up one third of the total balance of unsold finished goods in warehouses of the combine. The combine fulfilled the first-quarter 1953 plan for cart production 15 percent and for wheel production 12.5 percent, despite the fact that the kolkhozes were in desperate need of them. Production of shingles and chips was not organized during this period, and lumber production was irregular.

Another function of the Shyauliyayskiy Rayon Industrial Combine is to aid agricultural artels in repairing equipment and agricultural machinery. As of 24 April 1953, the combine was serving only city organizations. During the first quarter 1953, only a few spare parts were produced in compliance with kolkhoz orders; no agreements to provide kolkhozes with construction materials and spare parts for agricultural machinery were concluded during this period.

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As of 24 April 1953, nearly 200 men were working in secondary enterprises of Shyaul'yayskiy Rayon kolkhozes. In 1952, 48,000 workdays were charged to these enterprises. These secondary enterprises impose a heavy burden on kolkhoz economy since the majority of them are not profitable, but only raise production costs. Secondary enterprises of the Taribine Zhyame Kolkhoz, which include a flour mill, lime furnace, sawmill, saddlery shop, and six blacksmith shops, process an average of 49 metric tons of grain and produce 4 metric tons of lime and 28 cubic meters of lumber annually. Nearly 7,000 workdays are charged each year to workers in secondary enterprises of this kolkhoz. Operation of these secondary enterprises diverts far too much time and energy of kolkhoz workers from their principal function of producing grain, industrial crops, and animal products.

By the end of 1953, the Gimotoyi Zhyame and Raudonoyi Zhvaygaznde kolkhozes will have spent 2 years on the construction of a brick plant which, as of 24 April 1953, had already cost thousands of rubles of public funds and had kept many kolkhoz workers on construction. Not only was the construction work being done improperly, but agricultural operations were suffering greatly. The kolkhozes failed to fulfill the 1952 plan for plowing winter fallow. (6)

Belorussian SSR

Local industry enterprises of the Belorussian SSR fulfilled the January 1953 plan for scrap metal collection only 10 percent and the plan for the first half of February, 9 percent. As of 23 March 1953, more than 7,000 metric tons of scrap metal were available within the organization of Belkoopinsoyuz (Belorussian Union of Invalids' Cooperatives) and the Belorussian Office of Glavvtorsyriye (Main Administration of Procurement and Reprocessing of Secondary Raw Materials). The largest part of this amount of scrap metal was to be found on station track sidings. No arrangement for its shipment had been made. (7)

As of 23 April 1953, enterprises of local industry and industrial cooperatives of Gomel' in the Belorussian SSR were allowing serious failures in the fulfillment of assortment plans. Only 6 of 11 artels of industrial cooperatives and invalids' cooperatives fulfilled the first-quarter 1953 plan in complete assortment.

A number of artels in Gomel' have not been satisfying everyday needs of the population. City artels fulfilled the 1953 production plan for principal types of products only 41.8 percent. Consequently, industrial cooperative artels of the city failed to deliver to retail organizations in 1952 thousands of pairs of footwear, 1,200,000 rubles worth of furniture, nearly 700 metric tons of cast-iron, enamel, and zinc-plated dishware, a large quantity of knitted and haberdashery goods, wadding, fabrics, etc. (8). (A. T. T.)

Ukrainian SSR

A new, comfortably equipped personal services pavilion has been put in operation on Vasil'kovskaya Ulitsa in Kiev. The enterprise is to take orders for sewing and mending of clothing, footwear, and hats, for matching furs, and for cutting out dresses and suits. Similar pavilions were opened in 1953 on Dorogozhitskaya Ulitsa and on the outskirts of Pushkino-Voditse. New pavilions are being constructed in Pecherskiy, Oktyabr'skiy, and Zhuleznodorozhnyy rayons of Kiev.

The Ministry of Local Industry Ukrainian SSR is to make every effort in 1953 to expand its network of personal services enterprises for the population. As of 31 January 1953, more than 1,570 personal services pavilions, artels, and shops were in operation under the ministry. By the end of 1953, nearly 500 more such enterprises are to have been put in operation. More complex

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personal services pavilions which in addition to sewing and mending clothing and footwear are to repair gramophones, radio receivers, watches, metal articles, etc., are to be constructed in Kiev, Dnepropetrovsk, Khar'kov, Voroshilovgrad, Kherson, and other cities of the republic.

By the end of 1955, the volume of work of personal services shops of the Ministry of Local Industry Ukrainian SSR is to be triple that of 1950. (9)

Since World War II, hundreds of enterprises of local industry and industrial cooperatives which produce consumer goods such as finished clothing, knitwear, footwear, household goods, and construction materials have been constructed in cities and rayons of Khar'kovskaya Oblast. Large mechanized combines and sewing and footwear enterprises have been constructed in agricultural regions where no industry had existed previously. As of 1 April 1953, more than 1,400 shops were providing everyday needs and personal services for laborers in cities and villages of Khar'kovskaya Oblast. New personal services enterprises were being constructed in rayon centers, as well as a large dry-cleaning combine, a cotton-pinning mill, and a children's bicycle plant.

Local and cooperative industry of Khar'kovskaya Oblast produced 1,319,000,000 rubles worth of products in 1950 and is to produce 1.9 billion rubles worth of products in 1953. (10)

Moldavian SSR

Enterprises of the Ministry of Local Industry Moldavian SSR failed to fulfill the first-quarter 1953 plan for 25 principal types of products. Molbromsovet (Moldavian Council of Industrial Cooperatives) fulfilled the first-quarter 1953 plan for 5 of 15 articles. At the same time, Moldavian local and cooperative industries have not been producing prime-quality goods. As of 17 April 1953, more than 60 per cent of the leather footwear produced by the Kishinev City Industrial Combine was of low quality. (11)

By 1955, gross production of local and cooperative industries of the Moldavian SSR is to have doubled, as compared with 1950. (12)

The assortment of products produced by enterprises of Moldavian SSR local industry is to be expanded in 1953. As of 17 February 1953, a plastics products plant in Orgeyev and a furniture combine in Pridneprovsk were being constructed. The Belitsay Industrial Combine was to start production of glass dishes. Plans for a wagon supply plant in Belitsay and a plant in Floreshty were near completion. (13)

Armenian SSR

The Ministry of Local Industry Armenian SSR fulfilled the 1952 gross production plan for consumer goods and increased production of industrial products 15.5 percent, as compared with 1951. As a result of increased labor productivity, the ministry as a whole produced 7.2 million rubles worth of consumer goods, above the 1952 plan.

However, operations of the ministry in 1952 were not satisfactory. Ten rayon industrial combines of the ministry, including the Aginskii, Nor Bayazetskii, Talashkii, and others, failed to fulfill the 1952 plan by 20 to 40 percent. The metal structures plant and the Erevan Mechanical Plant also did not fulfill the 1952 plan.

Enterprises of the ministry did not fulfill the 1952 assortment plan, particularly for construction materials and household goods. Ministry enterprises failed to produce 10 of 20 types of consumer goods called for by the

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1952 plan. During the year, large amounts of shoe cream accumulated in warehouses of the Yerevan Leatherette and Oil-loth factory because A. Galyan, director of the factory, insisted on excessive shoe cream production to fulfill the 1952 gross production plan. At the same time, the factory did not fulfill the 1952 plan for production of leatherette, which is its main product.

Local industry enterprises of Yerevan Oblast fulfilled the 1952 plan for 7 of 24 types of products (14).

The function of the Kafan Mechanical Plant is to serve nearby kollektives and to produce a wide assortment of consumer goods. However, as of 3 April 1953, the enterprise was not fulfilling production plans. The plant fulfilled the plan for the first 2 months of 1953 only 53 percent. The plant also failed to fulfill the assortment plan during this period. The bed shop of the plant produced only 176 beds instead of the 600 beds called for by the plan for the first 2 months of 1953. The plant fulfilled the 2 month plan for production of agricultural tools and spare parts 33.3 percent.

Instead of completing construction of the principal shops -- the foundry, forge shop, and automobile repair shop -- which would help in the expansion of production and fulfillment of production plans, S. Mhatbekanyan, director of the Kafan Mechanical Plant, spent plant funds to construct a fence around the plant and a second warehouse for better storage and to purchase additional automobiles.

As of 3 April 1953, metal plates and rods produced by the Kafan Mechanical Plant were of such low quality that they did not sell, but accumulated in the plant warehouse. These rods would rust after a very short time and consequently were not desired by the consumer.

Production indexes were also low at the Kafan Local Industry Combine. The combine did not produce one set of furniture, although the plan for the first 2 months of 1953 called for production of 120 (15).

The Shamshadinskii Rayon Industrial Combine fulfilled the 1952 gross production plan only because it exceeded the plan for production of furniture, candy, and preserves. However, the combine failed to fulfill the plan for the two most important products -- construction materials and spare parts. The combine produced only one-fifth of the quantity called for by the 1952 plan, and that amount was of poor quality. At the end of 1952, the tile plant of the combine had not been mechanized and did not have an adequate working force. Consequently, the plant was unable to meet the kollektiv demand for tile in 1952, which forced the kollektives to use tiles of better quality and in greater quantities from neighboring rays.

The combine exceeded the gross production plan, but failed to fulfill the assortment plan for the first 2 months of 1953. As in 1952, those products easiest to manufacture were produced during this period. The first-quarter 1953 plan called for production of 1,000 wagon and cart construction parts, but, as of 3 March 1953, the combine had not produced any spokes or rims. The combine was to have produced 3,000 tires during this period, but, as of 23 March 1953, not one had been produced.

In 1953, rayon kollektives are to construct 157 livestock shelters, 50 "glazki" for tobacco curing, and more than 12 other agricultural structures. To construct these buildings, several hundred thousand tiles will be necessary, all of which will have to be brought in from other rays.

During the second half of 1952, the Shamshadinskii Rayon Industrial Combine received new machines and electric tools. However, this new equipment was not utilized at full capacity because of a lack of qualified operators and because the local power station often cut off the current. As of 23 March 1953, the combine had 30 to 40 percent of the total labor force necessary to run the combine efficiently.

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Land transport facilities of the combine were inadequate, with only one of three trucks in operation. As of 23 March 1953, the Ministry of Local Industry Armenian SSR was supplying the Shmshadinskiy Rayon Industrial Combine with the necessary amount of materials, but a large part (such as wheel iron, footwear leather, and other valuable materials) had not been utilized for several months since the shops were operating irregularly and not at full capacity when in operation.

As of 23 March, the timber-felling artel was not fulfilling the 1953 plan. The artel had at that time less than half the necessary working force. Not one truck of the three available was in operation. The artel did not fulfill the January or February 1953 plan for lumber production and transfer. (16)

By the end of 1953, construction of a weaving mill, woodworking factory, and a tile and brick plant of industrial cooperatives of the Armenian SSR are to have been completed. Production shops of a number of artels are to have been expanded and reconstructed. The Rulevik Artel in Yerevan is to have been converted into a perambulator and velocipede factory and the Artel imeni Shaumyan into a nickel plated bed factory. The Araks Furniture Factory is to have been completed by the end of 1953. (17)

RSFSR

From 1950 through 1952, 219 personal services shops were organized and 278 industrial enterprises were put in operation in cities and rayon centers of Khabarovskiy Kray. The largest of these were food combines in Khabarovsk, Petropavlovsk, Kamchatsk, Sovetskaya Gavan', and Obluch'ye, a brewery in Nikolayevsk-on-Amur, a vegetable cannery in the Rayon imeni Lazo, a cutlery plant and the Metallist Artel in Komsomolsk-on-Amur, and an enamelware plant in Khabarovsk. During this period, a number of tanning, cooperage, furniture, cart, and woodworking shops and plants were constructed, and footwear, confectionery, and sewing factories were reconstructed in the kray.

From 1950 through 1952, enterprises of local and cooperative industry received more than 2,000 units of large-scale equipment and power plants. Enterprises and artels spent tens of millions of rubles in construction of industrial buildings and living quarters and in the acquisition of equipment, transport facilities, and electric power stations. Consequently, production of kray local industry increased 44 percent and that of cooperative industry 25 percent, as compared with 1950.

During this period, local industry of Khabarovskiy Kray mastered production of 46 new types of products, including zinc-plated, enamel, and cast-iron dishware, plastic and mussels buttons, various types of hardware, cutlery, forks, wire, nails, sports equipment, synthetic wadding, and other articles. As of 10 April 1953, Khabarovskiy Kray was completely free of imports of furniture, zinc-plated household dishware, furnace casting, and other products from other oblasts and had considerably reduced imports of sewn articles, footwear, metal beds, enamelware, and hardware.

However, kray local industry and industrial cooperatives were not satisfying everyday needs of the population. The principal reason for this was that, as of 10 April, many enterprises and artels were not fulfilling 1953 gross production plans and not coming anywhere near fulfilling assortment plans. Local and cooperative industries were not utilizing to the fullest extent rich kray resources of raw materials such as timber, clay, mineral dye, quartz, sand, marble, graphite, deer skins, wild fruits, and berries. As of 10 April, only 30 percent of the total local and cooperative industry production was produced from local raw materials.

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The situation with regard to the fulfillment of capital construction plans was particularly serious as of 10 April 1953. Quite often, enterprises and artels which were conducting construction work themselves did not have an adequate working force, or cadres of engineers and technicians, and sometimes not even enough construction materials. A large part of the blame for this situation lay with executive committees of local soviets which were not firm in their control of kray construction work. The central planning organizations which were designated to work out construction plans were not performing their function. In 1951 and 1952, planners failed to provide the paper work necessary for the construction of three furniture factories, two rolling mills, and two breweries which had long been authorized.

Irregular distribution of kray local and cooperative industries, unorganized resources of raw materials within the kray, the lack of a permanent raw materials base for production of a number of food products, and procurement and shipment of raw materials not found in Khabarovskiy Kray are more problems which must be solved for more efficient operation of Khabarovskiy Kray local and cooperative industries. (18)

Enterprises of republic subordination in the city of Moscow pledged to fulfill the 1953 plan by 25 December and to produce by the end of the year 4.3 million rubles worth of products above plan. Enterprises of city subordination (city division of local industry) pledged to fulfill the 1953 plan by 25 December and to produce by the end of the year 50 million rubles worth of products above plan.

Enterprises of republic subordination of Moskovskaya Oblast pledged to fulfill the 1953 plan ahead of schedule and to produce 4.6 million rubles worth of products above plan by the end of the year. Enterprises of oblast subordination (oblast division of local industry) pledged to fulfill the 1953 plan by 21 December and to produce by the end of the year 40 million rubles worth of products above plan, including 21 million rubles worth of mass-production and custom-sewn articles and 220 metric tons of enamelware and zinc-plated dishware.

Enterprises of industrial cooperatives of the city of Moscow pledged to produce 30 million rubles worth of consumer goods above the 1953 plan and to save 5 million rubles by reducing net production cost.

Enterprises of industrial cooperatives of Moskovskaya Oblast pledged to produce 40 million rubles worth of products above the 1953 plan, including 500,000 meters of cotton fabrics, 85,000 meters of silk fabrics, 50 metric tons of cotton yarn, and 500,000 square meters of roofing paper. (19)

By the end of 1953, local and cooperative industries of Novosibirskaya Oblast are to have produced during the year 37 million bricks, more than 40,000 metric tons of calcium, and 500,000 square meters of roofing paper. Brick plants of industrial cooperatives of the oblast are to have increased production by 10 million bricks over 1953. (20)

Year by year, production of Vladimirskaia Oblast local food industry has been increasing. Four years ago, macaroni products were imported to Vladimir, but as of 14 March 1953, the oblast was self-sufficient in macaroni products and was supplying neighboring oblasts. During this period, macaroni production increased four times, confectionery goods 100 percent, and starch, syrup, and dried vegetables 50 percent. By March 1953, production of sago, groats, vinegar, and nonalcoholic dessert beverages had been organized in the oblast.

A shop for production of the dietetic product "gerkules" is being constructed in Vladimir. The Bogolyubovskiy Cannery is to be reconstructed in 1953 to increase its production 100 percent. (21)

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As of 14 April 1953, many industrial combines and artels of the Kazakh SSR were not fulfilling 1953 plans for production, assortment, or quality. The Beskaragayskiy Industrial Combine was supplying kolkhozes and sovkhoses with sleighs of very low quality. Such products as felt boots, soft heelless shoes, sewn articles, and furniture of the Pavlodar Industrial Combine were being reduced in grade and even rejected. The Osakarovka Musical Instruments Combine was producing low-quality products. Children's skates of low quality were being turned out by the Alma-Ata Scales Equipment Plant. (22)

Turkmen SSR

AS of 29 April 1953, preliminary calculations proved that the Krasnyy Molot Plant could reach an annual production of 140,000 hot plates, as compared with the 1953 plan of 50,000, by replacing the existing method of producing electrical appliances with the constant-flow method using a conveyor belt. The plant's gross production would correspondingly increase approximately 30 percent, as compared with the 1953 plan. (23)

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